

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A combination product comprising at least one oxidizing metal complex and at least one substrate containing an indoxyl derivative resulting in an insoluble colored compound for use simultaneously, separately or spread out over time, intended for the detection of bacteria:
2. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said substrate is selected from X-Gal, X-Phos, X-acglmn, Mag-Gal, Mag- α -Gal, and Mag-Phos, preferably X-Gal.
3. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal complex is ammoniacal iron citrate.
4. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal complex and said substrate are carried in an aqueous solvent at a concentration of between 3 and 900 mg/ml, preferably at 60 mg/ml, or an organic solvent at a concentration of between 100 mg/l and 50 g/l, particularly between 500 mg/l and 20 g/l, preferably at 10 g/l.
5. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising magnesium sulfate at a concentration of between 50 mM and 10 M, preferably 2 M, and/or at least one antibiotic.
6. (Withdrawn) A bacterial detection kit comprising a combination product as claimed in claim 1.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of bacteria, comprising the following steps:
 - a) culturing ~~bacteria~~ a sample comprising bacteria in a medium under anaerobic conditions, the medium comprising:
~~an ammoniacal iron citrate or ferrieyanide which allows the~~ an oxidizing metal complex capable of oxidative polymerization of an indoxyl chemical derivative, and

a substrate containing an indoxyl chemical derivative selected from the group consisting of X-Gal, X-Phos, ~~X-aeglmm~~X-GlcNac, Mag-Gal, Mag- α -Gal, and Mag-Phos to result in an insoluble colored compound; and

~~b) allowing the oxidative polymerization of the indoxyl chemical derivative to occur in the presence of the bacteria and ammoniacal iron citrate or ferricyanide; and~~

~~c) deleting the formation of a colored halo around the bacteria.~~

b) detecting a bacteria based on an appearance of a color in the medium associated with the bacteria while the cultured sample remains in the anaerobic conditions.

8. (Withdrawn) The use of an oxidizing metal complex for catalyzing the oxidative polymerization of indoxyl derivatives resulting in an insoluble colored compound.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of catalyzing an oxidative polymerization of an indoxyl derivative to produce an insoluble colored compound comprising:

adding to a medium a substrate containing an indoxyl derivative, the substrate selected from the group consisting of X-Gal, X-Phos, X-aeglmm, Mag-Gal, Mag- α -Gal, and Mag-Phos so as to improve the detection of the release of the indoxyl derivative by an enzyme from the substrate; and

adding an oxidizing metal complex to the medium, the oxidizing metal complex selected from the group consisting of ammoniacal iron citrate and ferricyanide.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein ammoniacal iron citrate and an X-Gal substrate are added to the medium to intensify a colored halo or increase a color of colonies.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

selecting an ammoniacal iron citrate as the oxidizing metal complex.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the oxidizing metal complex is ammoniacal iron citrate.